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FLOWERS OF THE JANUARY-BLOOMING VERNAL WITCH-HAZEL (enlarged)

IT HAS been much too long since the last issue of this quite irregular publication, but there's a war on! We have increased our garden efforts, so that without stopping the study of many new roses and other posies, the best tomatoes, the sweetest corn, the quickest lettuce, and the rest of the garden "sass" was added. We have sown them, grown them, pictured them with our usual meticulous care, and also eaten them with enjoyment.

The war has reached heavily into our personnel, and to keep the Press and the Garden going we've "doubled" in many directions. With the Government Printer asking us to help in important items, our catalogue customers have nevertheless been served—we think well served—with millions more of what it takes to promote the Victory Garden.

On one of our specialties—labels and tags in full color—we passed the four-million mark before last Christmas.

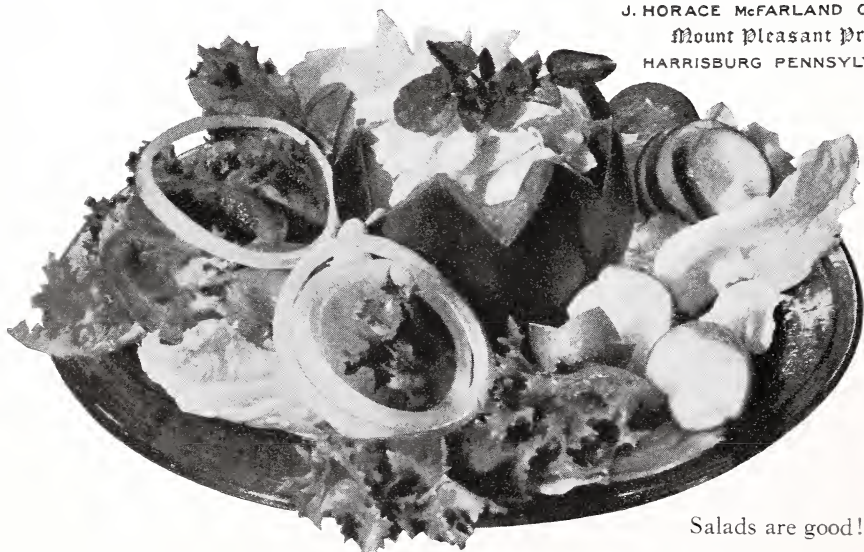
Before our "Dan" Foley was inducted into the Army, he wrote and we printed a completely new "Garden Flowers in Color," with 350 color pictures and a score of sketches. Likewise we printed Gerbing's "Camellias," showing in full color 108 accurate pictures of this aristocrat of southern gardens.

This is war, but we are here at both Press and Garden for 1944. The Gardens are ready for new growing things and the Press is ready to carry the garden message in our unique way for those who want to make all American gardens as victorious in 1944 as our fighters must be. Let us hear from you on this basis.

February, 1944

J. Horace McFarland.

J. HORACE MCFARLAND COMPANY
Mount Pleasant Press
HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA



Salads are good!

At Breeze Hill we found Jubilee Tomato to be a good orange-yellow variety with thick flesh of fine flavor. It slices to advantage and makes excellent juice as well.



VEGETABLES *are "Tops" Now!*

BESIDES the familiar root and leaf crops commonly grown in home gardens, there are quite a few that are less well known. Flower novelties provide a good deal of pleasurable anticipation for the flower grower, and there is no reason why this same kind of stimulation may not be enjoyed by the raiser of vegetables.

Chinese Cabbage is Chinese but not exactly cabbage. It has also been compared to celery, lettuce, and mustard, but whatever it may resemble, it has a snappy flavor all its own. Its cabbage-like leaves are folded together into a long head. Outer leaves are somewhat ruffled, and green in color, but the inner ones are packed so hard that they are completely bleached. Sliced crosswise, the center of the head forms crisp

discs that are very handily served and eaten either alone or combined with other green-salad material.

At Breeze Hill this past summer we grew three varieties of Chinese Cabbage—Wong Bok, Chihili, and Pe-tsai. We could not see a great deal of difference between them, except that Wong Bok produced a somewhat thicker head. Chinese Cabbage is better grown in the fall than in the spring, for it is a cool-weather crop.

Visitors to the Breeze Hill Victory Garden last year were treated to a sample of Upland Cress. This unfamiliar green grows readily in ordinary garden soil for it does not require the moist growing conditions that Water Cress needs. We planted it along with other salad plants, and discovered that its very peppery flavor was a pleasant addition to green salads composed of mild-flavored vegetables. It also makes a nice accompaniment for a sandwich, and it may be boiled with other greens. Upland Cress grows best in cool weather; on hot summer days it is likely to go to seed quickly.

Another cool-weather green vegetable which deserves wider planting is Mustard. In this country "mustard" denotes either a condiment or a weed to many people. The seeds of



Oakleaf Lettuce forms loose heads of small oak-shaped leaves that stay sweet and delicious. Novelties like this make gardening interesting for both new and experienced gardeners.

one variety are used for flavoring; when it escapes from cultivation it rapidly becomes a pest. Garden Mustard, however, produces vitamin-filled rich green leaves—either frilled or not, according to the variety—which are very tender when young. White London was the variety we grew last summer. We found it very nice for salads and sandwiches if used when the leaves are young. Seed should not be planted very deep, and should be kept moist until it germinates.

We were delighted that the new Jubilee Tomato is so good. People who complain of the over-mild flavor of most yellow Tomatoes should find this one more to their liking, for it has a very fine taste. The fruits are orange-yellow in color.

We highly recommend two Lettuce varieties raised at Breeze Hill: Oakleaf and Thanksgiving Day. The first, a heat-resistant kind, lives up to its name very well, for the leaves are shaped much like those of an oak. They are crisp and tender. Thanksgiving Day has a brownish edge on its leaves and is fine in late fall. We enjoyed it the day before Thanksgiving this year.



We had better results from sowing Chinese Cabbage seed in the open row and thinning it out than we had from transplanting it. Tying up the leaves helps to blanch the heads.

THE NEW ROSES

SEVERAL novelty Hybrid Teas in the yellow tones are being offered this year. Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, from Howard & Smith, has greenish yellow buds but they open to 4-inch loose spiral flowers of soft white with yellowish inner petals. The blooms are distinguished for their rather odd lemon scent. The 3-foot plants grow upright.

Fantasia, a Jackson & Perkins Hybrid Tea, has lovely fruit-scented buds which are fine for cutting. They are light



Katherine T. Marshall produced some good flowers for us. This Jackson & Perkins HT. has fat oval coppery buds which open into 5-inch flowers with 20 warm pink petals with a large golden base. These mildly fragrant blooms are carried singly on long stems. The upright plants have heavy straight red canes, red thorns, and average foliage. They reached a height of about 3 feet.

yellow in color and long pointed, opening to a 3½-inch starry flower of chrome-yellow, changing to soft cream. In fall both buds and flowers are orange-yellow.

Mme. Marie Curie, an HT. of Gaujard origination, is clear, bright yellow with a chrome-yellow center, aging rich cream color. The fragrant flowers are carried on upright plants.

Fred Edmunds, the HT. which won the 1944 All-America Regional Award, has buds of burnt-orange that become brilliant coppery orange when fully open.

Lowell Thomas is a Hybrid Tea being put into commerce by The Conard-Pyle Co. Its strong 3-foot plants have heavy red canes and large, dark foliage. Long-pointed, light yellow buds are borne both singly and in clusters up to ten. When fully open the loose bloom is 4½ inches in diameter, with pale yellow outer petals and egg-yolk inner ones. It ages a pleasing light yellow, and is mildly fragrant. We admired the fine blooms and foliage.





The Spotlight is on them!

FLOWER entries in the All-America Selections were even fewer than last year, with sixteen varieties under test and two winning awards.

The winner of the Bronze Medal, Petunia Cheerful, is a lovely clean salmon-pink. Plants are compact mounds a foot high and 2 feet across, and are covered with bloom all season.

Marigold Mammoth Mum, pictured below, looks like a huge chrysanthemum. Its flowers are about 4 inches across, sulphur-yellow turning creamy yellow upon opening.

Gaillardia Pinwheel, at the left, although not a prizewinner, pleased us with its dull red flowers edged silvery white.





AMERICAN SHAMROCK (*Oxalis Deppei*)

OXALIS DEPPEI

WHEN we received a package of "American Shamrocks" from Inter-State Nurseries, we planted the tiny brown corms about 2 inches deep, as an edging for one of the shrub borders. In about two weeks each one had sent out

both foliage and flowers, and the plants kept increasing in strength all summer and fall.

The naked 4 to 5-inch stems are topped with maltese crosses of four triangular-shaped leaflets of light yellowish green, with the underside gray-green and slightly tomentose. An irregular brownish curved line marks each leaflet about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the base. The five-petaled flowers, less than an inch across, are a delightful shade of dark old-rose with a green throat and prominent yellow stamens.

The plant has since increased tenfold, and is a most satisfactory edging for annual and perennial borders. Even when out of bloom it is attractive. When fall comes the plants can be potted up and brought indoors, where new foliage and flowers develop.

THE WITCH-HAZEL FAMILY

SHRUBS belonging to the Witch-hazel family are not often seen in home plantings. They would make a happy addition if they were better known, but it seems that only those gardeners curious enough to search them out, are familiar with them. They are *Fothergilla*, *Corylopsis*, and *Hamamelis*; all are worthwhile as well as somewhat unusual.

Fothergilla and *Hamamelis* are double-duty shrubs, for they produce not only distinctive spring bloom but also rich fall coloring. The foliage of *Hamamelis* turns glowing gold in autumn, while that of *Fothergilla* covers a wider range—red, yellow, and gold through bronze shades.

FOTHERGILLA

At Breeze Hill we have two species of *Fothergilla*, *monticola* and *major*. In his "Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs" Dr. Rehder describes a third species, *gardeni*. *Monticola* is a surprising shrub, not of impressive size, so it will not become bushy like a hydrangea or a spirea. Just before the foliage makes its appearance, the "bottlebrush" flowers come into bloom, covering the plant from about a foot above ground. They are truly like little bottlebrushes in shape,

about 2 inches long, and are borne singly at the tips of the branches or in clusters of three or four. The bristles, which are the stamens, are dull white, with a faint sweetish odor, in stemless groups of about twenty-five. The leaves are bronzy and deeply corrugated upon first opening, becoming smoother and lighter green. The shrub always wears an air of distinction, whether in bloom or only in leaf.

Fothergilla major differs but little at Breeze Hill, its blooms being similar; the foliage turns bright yellow in the autumn. *F. gardeni* is a somewhat lower-growing species. The flowers are white with pinkish stamens, and the leaves are red in the fall. *Fothergillas* are natives of the edges of swamps in the southeastern states, but seem easily adaptable to ordinary garden conditions.

CORYLOPSIS

We have two species of *Corylopsis* about which we are quite enthusiastic. *C. pauciflora* has numerous slender branches loaded with bloom each spring. The little bell-shaped flowers are pale sulphur-yellow, hanging from the underside of the branch, and spaced an inch or two apart. Each flower has five little petals and five anthers, and opens before the leaves appear. Young foliage is purplish red and when fully developed the leaves resemble true Hazel leaves—toothed and sharp-pointed. Growth is quick and shapely. *C. spicata* has brighter yellow flowers than *C. pauciflora*, and heart-shaped leaves up to 4 inches long.

Both species are most attractive in early spring, and the blooms are considerably more delicate in appearance than the sometimes overplanted *Forsythia*. They compare in fragile beauty with the even less-known *Prinsepias*.

HAMAMELIS

The *Hamamelis* tribe does a very peculiar service for the garden. The common Witch-hazel produces its long, slender yellow tassels about the time of the first frost, and other members bloom from January on until general garden activity

has been resumed. Natives of North America and Asia, they are strong, bushy small trees or large shrubs.

Of pleasingly controllable growth habit, they are remarkable rather than conspicuous in their blooms, as may be noted by the greatly enlarged photograph of the flowers of *H. vernalis* presented on the front cover. The blooms of all the species are carried in clusters, and consist of narrow wavy



In a few months our perennial borders will be blooming again

petals. All of the species are more or less fragrant, and anyone who will cut twigs of *H. vernalis* when it blooms in January will find a delightfully pervading fragrance.

An interesting point is that the flowers and unripe fruit are to be seen on the plant at the same time, for the blooms come while the preceding season's fruit, which requires a year to ripen, is still clustered on the twigs. The plant's name, literally "fruit together," has to do with this habit of spontaneous flower and fruit production. It is one of the distinctive qualities of the whole genus that these hard-shelled little fruits break open suddenly when ripe and shoot their black seeds out quite some distance. This habit accounts for the way the Virginia Witch-hazel spreads in eastern American forests.

Hamamelis virginiana, the common Witch-hazel, forms a vigorous tree of manageable size, with its relatively long yellow bloom tassels appearing on late fall days. It is the first of the family to flower.

H. vernalis, a native of the southeastern Alleghenies, as well as Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana, is grown by some shrewd nurserymen as a low shrub. If given any encouragement, however, it will make a small and pleasing tree which in mid-January will turn red with its peculiar and extremely fragrant blossoms. There is a *carnea* variety which has all red petals.

A little later-blooming is *H. japonica*, which makes just about the same sort of shrub-tree effect as *vernalis*. There are two interesting sub-varieties, blooming in February and March in ordinary winter climates, and providing, in the case of *arborea*, golden yellow petals with a deep purple calyx, in themselves most attractive. The *zuccariniana* type blooms a little later, so that it runs into March, when its pure canary-yellow flowers are very effective.

H. mollis makes a worthwhile small tree. Its golden yellow flowers with reddish brown calyxes open in late February or early March. The foliage that follows is soft and woolly, heart-shaped at the base, with pointed tips.



HELLEBORUS NIGER

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

ANY perennial that blooms naturally outdoors in November and December in central Pennsylvania is worth more than a passing glance. The Christmas Rose does just that. At Breeze Hill we have been enjoying our clump of it for ten years or more, and it was never so lovely as this year.

The flowers of *Helleborus niger* consist of five sepals around a mass of yellow stamens. They are tinted purplish in the bud, opening pure white, and finally turning pale green.



THE Breeze Hill Victory Garden, which proved so photogenic last year, has been enlarged beyond its white picket fence. In the new section we raised crops like soybeans, peas, and sweet corn, for which there was no room in the smaller garden. The photographs made here are available for use by progressive seedsmen who wish to carry the Victory Garden message home to their customers.